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Street Urban District Council.

THE
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
ENGINEER,
SURVEYOR AND SANITARY INSPECTOR
for the Year 1938.

GEORGE FORDEN, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

R. W. HERRING, SURVEYOR, WATER ENGINEER.
AND SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Council Offices,
STREET,
June 1939.

STREET, SOMERSET :
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STREET, Somerset,

June 1938.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

We have the honour to submit to you our Annual Report for 1938.

Health Officers :

GEORGE FORDEN, M.R.C.S. L.S.A.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

R. W. HERRING, SURVEYOR WATER ENGINEER.

AND SANITARY INSPECTOR.

AREA—The Area of the Urban District of Street is 3,112 acres.

POPULATION—1934. corrected Census estimation	...	4,409
1935, " " "	...	4,454
1936, " " "	...	4,534
1937, " " "	...	4,532
1938, " " "	...	4,573

RATEABLE VALUE—£23,453. Product of Id. Rate is £92.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS—OCCUPATIONS—Boot and Shoe Making, Tanning, the manufacture of Leather Board, Lime Stone Quarrying and Agriculture.

GEOLOGY—The strata consists of lower lals, alternate beds of limestone, clay and marl.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES—

1921—1025 ; 1934—1270 ; 1935—1338 ; 1936—1350 ;
1937—1386 ; 1938—1460.

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED IN 1938.

(a) By Private Persons	...	27
(b) By State Assistance	...	Nil
(c) By Local Authority	...	Nil

NUMBER OF FAMILIES—

No precise number can be given, there still being an appreciable number of families in lodgings.

Vital Statistics.**Live Births.**

	Total.	Males.	Females.	Birth Rate
1937				11.01 per 1,000 living
Legitimate	50	26	24	
1938				9.84 ditto
Legitimate	45	29	16	
(Birth Rate for United Kingdom—15.1 per 1,000)				

Still Births.

1937	—	3	—	—
Death Rate per 1,000 registered Births—60				
1938	—	4	—	—
Death Rate per 1,000 registered Births—72.72				

Deaths

	Total.	Males.	Females.	Death Rate per 1,000 living
1937	51	24	27	11 45
1938	61	34	27	13-34
(Death Rate for United Kingdom—11-6)				

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year—4.

Under 1 week	3	1—6 months	1
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Causes of Deaths in 1938.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Nephritis ...	3	2	5
Premature Births ...	3	1	4
Senility ...	4	4	8
Suicides ..	1	1	2
Violence ...	1	0	1
Defined Diseases ...	3	3	6
Cerebral Haemorrhage ...	2	3	5
Heart Disease ...	6	6	12
Circulating Dis ...	0	1	1
Bronchitis ...	1	0	1
Appendicitis ...	1	0	1
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	0	1	1
Influenza ...	2	1	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	1	3
General Paralysis of Insane	1	0	1
Cancer ...	2	2	4
Other defined Diseases	1	0	1
	33	26	59

Age Table of Deaths.

		1936.	1937.	1938.
Under 1 year	...	2	2	4
1 year and under 2 years	...	1	0	0
2 years	.. 5 ..	0	0	0
5 ..	.. 15 ..	1	1	0
15 ..	.. 25 ..	1	1	1
25 ..	.. 45 ..	3	3	3
45 ..	.. 65 ..	12	13	15
65 and above	...	29	31	38
		—	—	—
		49	51	61

Cancer.

The following cases occurred during 1938 :—

1937	1938
Cancer of Stomach at 45 years	Rectum at 74 years
Intestines at 65 ..	Tongue at 78 ..
Rectum at 76 ..	Liver at 75 ..
Breast at 62 ..	Rectum at 61 ..
Kidney at 57 ..	
Pancreas at 66 ..	

Cancer cases are sent to the Royal Infirmary and General Hospital, in Bristol, for X-ray and Radium Treatment or operation

Notifiable Diseases other than Tuberculosis.

Disease.	Total Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small Pox	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	Nil	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria	5	5	Nil
Enteric Fever (including Para-typhoid)	Nil	Nil	..
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Nil	Nil	..
Cerebro spinal Meningitis	..	..	..
Dysentery	..	..	..
Malaria	..	..	..
Pneumonia	2	..	2
Acute Poliomyelitis	Nil	..	Nil
Encephalitis Lethargica	..	..	..

Measles, Whooping Cough and Chicken Pox are not notifiable in the Street Area.

Prevention of Blindness.

Persons suffering from Eye Disease are sent to the Eye Hospital, Bristol.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum, a special nurse is obtained for treatment at home; or sent to the Children's Hospital, Bristol.

Elementary Schools

The Water Supply from the mains and Sanitary conditions are satisfactory.

Tuberculosis.

		Total notified	Total Deaths
Respiratory	...	3	2
Non Respiratory	...	1	Nil

All new cases of Tuberculosis are notified to the County Medical Officer of Health, and are visited by the Health Visitors. The majority are examined at the Tuberculosis Dispensary, and when suitable are sent to Sanatorium.

SANATORIA IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET.

County Sanatorium, Quantock Lodge, 60 beds for men and women.

County Sanatorium for Children, Compton Bishop, 29 beds.

Taunton Tuberculosis Hospital, 20 beds for advanced cases.

County Sanatorium at Wincanton.

Surgical Tuberculosis in Children is dealt with at the Glastonbury Orthopædic Clinic through the County Orthopædic Scheme, and 20 beds at the Bath Orthopædic Hospital.

There is no provision for Surgical Tuberculosis in Adults ; they are sent to the Bristol Hospitals.

Laboratory Facilities

At the County Health Laboratory at Taunton, for Examination of Diphtheria Swabs, Sputum for Tubercle Baccilus Blood (Widal test) for Typhoid Fever, Milk for Bacterial content.

Ambulance.

An Ambulance is kept at the Isolation Hospital at Shepton Mallet for the conveyance of Infectious Diseases. There is not an Ambulance in Street for accident cases, but one is hired from Glastonbury when required

The St. John's at Glastonbury also serves Street.

Nursing in the Home.

A District Nursing Association appoints two Queen's Nurses for general nursing and maternity nursing inside and outside the area, and a special maternity nurse inside the area.

There is a Child's Clinic and an Ante-Natal Clinic affiliated to the Nursing Association.

There is a Cottage Hospital at Butleigh (3 miles), to which the Urban District Council contributes £10 per annum. The Urban District is included in an Infectious Hospital Scheme, the hospital being at Shepton Mallet. An ambulance is kept at the hospital for conveyance of patients to the hospital.

Infectious Disease.

5 cases of Diphtheria occurred during the year. No Scarlet Fever or Typhoid. A mild epidemic of Measles in the Infants School but no deaths.

I attribute the low incidences of Infectious Disease to the high standard of Sanitation in the Town. The Town is well scavenged and kept very clean.

The low incidence of Pulmonary Tuberculosis I attribute to deep sub-soil drainage which the Surveyor does when new dwellings are built ; thus ensuring a dry wholesome atmosphere instead of a wet polluted atmosphere which occurs when the sub-soil water lies near the surface.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is given free of charge to resident Doctors for Disease occurring in working class families in Street. Immunization against Diphtheria is done by resident Doctors for children under 5 years. Children of school age are done by the School Medical Officer.

The Mortuary is used by outside parishes as well as for Street, a small fee being charged towards the cost of cleaning after use.

The principal feature of the Report is the low incidence of notifiable Infectious Disease, there being 5 cases of Diphtheria, no Typhoid and 2 cases of Scarlet Fever.

Of Pulmonary Tuberculosis 3 cases were notified in 1938, 20 years ago the average number was 9 or 10 per year. On the other hand Bovine or milk borne Tuberculosis is always with us, we are never free from Tubercular Disease of Bones and Joints and internal glands in children, due to milk borne disease.

Factories and Workshops.

Factories :

C. & J. Clark Ltd.	Avalon Leather Board Co.	C.W.S. Tannery
Bartlett, N. L	Roper & Co.	Phelps & Son.
Helliker & Sons Ltd.		

Workshops :

Mid Som. Electric	Macmillan	Gillett	Boyce
Wall, W.	Candy	Palmer	Beven
Frampton & Sons	Mundy, John	Clare & Son	Stapleton
Gas Co.	Lewis, J.	Lang, J.	Locke, Chas.
Wakely	Blake	Heal, P.	Holland
Latcham	Allen	Wall, L.	Cox, Bros.
Clare, C. W.	Cox, C. J.	Purse, D.	Bond, Chas.
Bond, H.	Elver	Smith, E.	Banks, C. G.
Monelle	White & Son	Green	Hillard

Bakers :

Packe	C.W.S.	Chubb	Flemington
Shepherd	Acreman	Marsh	Clark

Water Supply.

A new deep-well pump with 350,000 g.p.d. capacity and float control has been put down at Honeyhurst, and the boosting pump on the Causeway duplicated. Infiltration at the Honeyhurst Well has been stopped for a depth of 32 feet, and it is hoped to continue this work to lower levels.

Analyses have shown a high standard of water purity, with one exception, when after rains an adverse report was received.

A new 6 inch High Level leg-out main has been laid, thus affording increased pressures in the Overleigh area.

A stand-by Diesel pumping unit has been installed at the Low Level Reservoir to raise water to the High.

The requisite cleaning out of the well-house and reservoirs has been done. Chlorination, extensions to mains, a new high level reservoir and the enlargement of the low level reservoir are under consideration.

Sewage Disposal.

Periodical desludging of the settling tanks has been carried out, and no adverse reports have been received in respect of the filtrate. Consideration is being given to sewer extensions at Brooks and Botleigh Road and the relaying of the Mead section is contemplated.

Fourteen new drainage systems have been tested and found satisfactory. Systems at three private houses have been relaid and in one case connected to the sewer.

Ministry of Health Inquiries. None.

Housing.

Number of New Houses erected during the year :

(1) By Local Authority

With State Assistance—

a. Rehousing under Housing Act 1936	Nil.
b. Overcrowding	Nil.
c. Other	Nil.

With State Assistance Nil.

(2) By other bodies or persons ... Nil.

a. With State Assistance	Nil.
b. Without State Assistance	27

Housing Inspections :

1. (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under P.H. or Housing Acts).	...	57
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	75
2. (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Cons. Regu., 1925 and 1932	...	Nil.
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	Nil.
	(c) Number of houses in which no action was found necessary.	...	25
3.	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	...	Nil.
4.	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding Sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	...	32

Housing Action :

(a)	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	...	32
(b)	Number of houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action.	...	Nil.

Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—**A—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :**

1.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	...	Nil.
2.	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	...	
	a. By owners	...	Nil
	b. By Local Authority in default of owners	...	Nil

B—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

1.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	Nil.
2.	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	...	
	a. By owners	...	Nil.
	b. By Local Authority in default of owners	...	„

C—Proceedings under the sections 11, 13 and 26 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

1.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	...	„
2.	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	...	„
3.	(a) Clearance Orders made ...	...	„
	(b) Number of houses involved ...	...	„
4.	Clearance Orders confirmed ...	...	„
	(a) Number of Houses involved ...	...	„
	(b) Number of Houses demolished ...	...	„
	(c) Number of Houses to be demolished ...	...	„

D—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act 1936 :

1.	Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	...	Nil.
2.	Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	...	Nil.

Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding :

(a)	1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of year ...	...	Nil.
	2. Number of families dwelling therein ...	...	Nil.
	3. Number of persons dwelling therein ...	...	Nil.
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ...	...	Nil.
(c)	1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ...	...	Nil.
	2. Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	...	Nil.
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ...	...	Nil
(e)	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.	...	Nil

Milk Supply.

Number of Producers on the register ... 18

Number of Distributors on the Register divided as follows :—

(a) Distributors only	...	...	3
(b) Distributors who are also producers	...	...	12

(A producer is only included as a distributor if he definitely makes a business of selling his milk by retail to individual customers).

Number of licences given to Graded Milk Distributors	3
2 Accredited	1 Pasteurised

Meat Supervision.

Slaughterhouses : Licenced	Nil
Registered	...
	5
Total	5

147 inspections have been made, 680 carcasses seen and the following meat condemned : 1 bovine liver and pluck, 2 pigs' heads, 1 pig's liver and pluck, 2 sheeps' livers.

Camping Sites Nil.

We are, Gentlemen, your obedient servants,

GEORGE FORDEN, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

R. W. HERRING, SURVEYOR, WATER ENGINEER,
AND SANITARY INSPECTOR.

